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The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Chairman Pell:

I am separately writing you and Senator Helms to ask your continued cooperation in protecting vital foreign intelligence sources and methods as the Senate debates the INF Treaty. One of the key principles on which the President negotiated this treaty is that it must be verifiable. The Intelligence Community expects to make a major contribution towards satisfying that principle. In order to meet that burden, the Community plans to rely on a variety of existing intelligence sources and methods which provide information on many aspects of Soviet military forces including their strategic and theater nuclear forces. Those sources and methods are, to varying degrees, subject to compromise and Soviet counteraction if disclosed. Loss of these sources and methods would not only hinder our ability to monitor compliance with the INF Treaty but would also harm intelligence reporting on Soviet strategic missile systems.

You and other leaders in the Senate are committed to a careful review of the Intelligence Community's ability to verify the INF Treaty. We have already made arrangements with the Senate Intelligence Committee to help that Committee and the Senate as a whole to discharge this commitment as the Senate fulfills its constitutional mandate to ratify treaties. In order to avoid placing intelligence sources and methods at risk of compromise during the debate, I urge that discussions of our verification capability be held in secure circumstances which will permit a detailed exploration of our capability. Only through detailed, and thus necessarily classified, discussion of verification issues can a comprehensive record be made to support the Senate's judgment on this aspect of the treaty.

I and the other senior officials of the Intelligence Community remain ready to assist the Senate in its

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consideration of this Treaty. Please call me or my designated point of contact, for assistance on substantive intelligence matters or on security classification questions.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

Copy Furnished:

Senator David L. Boren
Chairman, Senate Committee on Intelligence
Senator William S. Cohen
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Intelligence

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The Honorable Jesse Helms
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3301

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